

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4-6, 10 and 11 are amended. Claims 1-3 and 7-9 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 4, 2002.

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Thirant (U.S. Patent No. 4,240,712). Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections of claims 1-3 and 7-9 are moot because claims 1-3 and 7-9 are canceled by this Amendment.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 4-6, 10 and 11 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, claims 4-6 and 11 are amended to be in independent form so as to place this application in condition for allowance.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-6, 10 and 11 define patentable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 4-6, 10 and 11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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